



# National Visitor Use Monitoring

## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

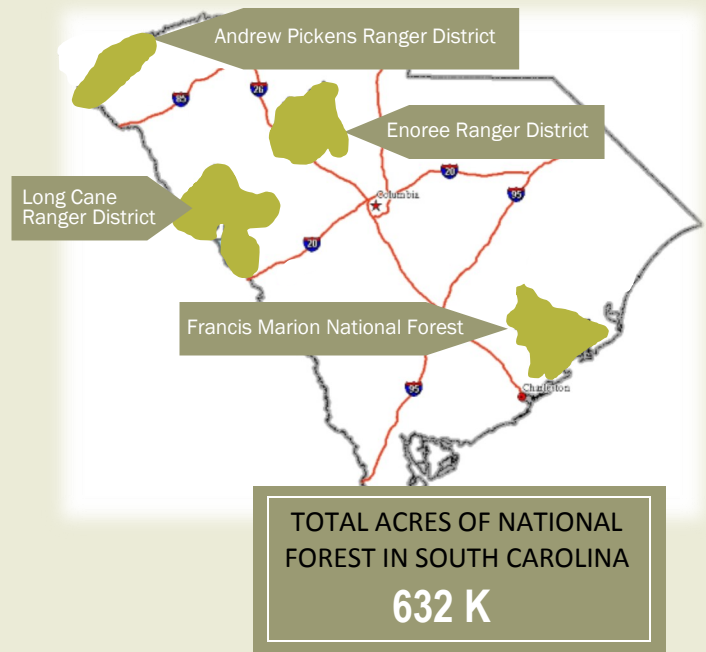
The National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program provides reliable information about recreation visitors to national forest lands at the national, regional, and forest level. To improve public service, the Forest Service requires measuring trends in user satisfaction and use levels. NVUM information assists Congress, Forest Service leaders, and program managers in making sound decisions that best serve the public and protect valuable natural resources by providing science based, reliable information about the type, quantity, quality and location of recreation use on public lands. The survey is conducted every 5 years.

### KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ The **total estimated site visits**<sup>1</sup> in 2013 for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests is **927,000**. Of the total use, there were:
  - 250,000** Day use site visits<sup>2</sup>
  - 27,000** Overnight site visits<sup>3</sup>
  - 629,000** General forest site visits<sup>4</sup>
  - 21,000** Designated wilderness site visits<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ The total estimated **national forest visits**<sup>6</sup> is **771,000**.

### AT A GLANCE

The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests contain 4 ranger districts, 5 wildernesses and a Wild and Scenic River:



- ◆ 70% of the visits are for **dispersed uses** on the forests (uses like hunting, fishing, trails, and other uses on the large land base)
- ◆ 30% of the visits are **developed uses** (uses at day-use and overnight developed sites)



**96** developed recreation sites



**166** Miles of Hiking Trail



**632,000** Acres in Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Land



**5** wilderness areas



**80** Miles of Motorized Trail



**45** fishing ponds and **14,300** miles of natural streams



**1** Wild and Scenic River



**126** Miles of Equestrian Trail



**1** Scenic Byway

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## MORE FINDINGS

- ◆ Males account for over 80 percent of the visits to the forests.
- ◆ African American visitors are about 7 percent of the visiting population.
- ◆ Children under the age of 16 are about 12 percent of visits.
- ◆ The forest's recreation market is mostly local. About three-quarters of visits are from people who live within 50 miles.
- ◆ Most visits to this forest are relatively short. The average visit duration is under 7 hours; half the visits are 3 hours or less.
- ◆ Hunting (20%) and fishing (10%) are among the key primary activities for this forest.
- ◆ Income results show that more than 75% of visits are from households earning between \$25,000 and \$75,000 per year.
- ◆ About 95% of visits indicate they are satisfied with their overall recreation experience.
- ◆ Total site visits for the forests are down over 32% from 2008. The only increase is wilderness visits, up 48% from 2008.

## Definition of Terms and Limitations of Results

**Limitation of results** The information presented here is valid and applicable at the forest, regional, and national level. It is not designed to be accurate at the district or site level.

**<sup>1</sup>Site visit** is the entry of one person onto a national forest site or area to participate in recreation activities for an unspecified period of time.

**<sup>2</sup>Day Use site visits** are entry of one person onto a national forest site or area to participate in recreation activities at a developed sites, such as picnic areas and shooting ranges, for an unspecified period of time.

**<sup>3</sup>Overnight site visits** are entry of one person onto a national forest site or area to participate in camping at a designated campground for an unspecified period of time.

**<sup>4</sup>General Forest site visits** are entry of one person onto a national forest to participate in recreation activities that utilize the large land base, such as hunting, fishing, boating, trails of all types, for an unspecified period of time.

**<sup>5</sup>Designated Wilderness site visits** are entry of one person into a designated wilderness on national forest to participate in recreation activities for an unspecified period of time.

Visitors on the Francis Marion National Forest enjoy kayaking at the visitor center.



*Employees greet mountain biker users on the Long Cane Ranger District, Edgefield, South Carolina.*

## CONTACT

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## Sources

**Visitor Use Report**, Francis Marion –Sumter NF, USDA Forest Service, Region 8, National Visitor Use Monitoring, Data Collected FY2013

**Visitor Use Report**, Francis Marion –Sumter NF, USDA Forest Service, Region 8, National Visitor Use Monitoring, Data Collected FY2008

## Website for NVUM:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>